



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

E. Jay Carlson Community Development Building, 18400 Murdock Circle,
BCS Large Conference Room, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Board Members:

District:

Coty Keller, Chair	District 4
Don McCormick, Vice-Chair	District 2
Thomas Brock.....	District 3
Patrick Jurek.....	District 1
Wendy Lang.....	District 5
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Ed Hill.....	Member-at-Large

Minutes

March 5, 2020 at 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order:

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Keller called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call / Determination of a Quorum

Upon Secretary Scott calling the roll it was determined a quorum was present.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Approve the Minutes from February 6, 2020

Mr. McCormick moved approval of the February 6, 2020 BSAC minutes, second by **Ms. Lang**; approved unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

None offered.

7. New Business:

None offered.

8. Old Business:

- Water Quality
 - Craig Rudy, Charlotte County Utilities Director -Wastewater Infrastructure and Development Plans for the West Port Community

Mr. Rudy, Utilities Director explained that the West Port Development has substantial requirements for water, wastewater and reclaimed. We have plenty of capacity for both water and wastewater. The flows will be going to the East Port Plant which is currently undergoing an expansion project. There is a five-year phase approach. We are currently under Phase 1, and under engineering review. In the system currently, we have the capacity for another 12,000 homes. We are using the same approach in Burnt Store. We will connect into the pipes going down US Route 41 and SR 776.

Ms. Lang asked what the long-range plan was based on the weather changes; with Mr. Rudy explaining that they are looking to go to 9 and design to 12. Projections are conservative. There is a process thru DEP. As thresholds are met you must plan expansions and design. We are going along as required by federal law.

Mr. McCormick asked if the eight (8) million gallons of water during wet season was designed into the plan; with Mr. Rudy stating it is mostly thru Infill & Infiltration (I&I). We are currently looking at how we can reduce our I&I. New technology is being looked at which uses electricity to measure connectivity thru the pipe. This will allow us to look at older pipes to see where bad areas are. This technology may help with cost savings.

Ms. Lang asked where the worse areas are; with Mr. Rudy stating in the over basins and older areas. The Scope of Work must be determined and then how to do it. We are currently working on older areas.

Mr. Anlauf asked about sewer spills related to frequency, intensity and location.

Mr. Rudy explained spills will happen. Contractors hit pipes at times. We do all we can internally to prevent spills. Crews are looking at inflow problems, using the I&I prospective and we address all locate requests (811).

Mr. Rudy added that a large spill on Coliseum was due to a cement pipe breaking. We are being as proactive as we can. Most spills are manmade problems.

Ms. Lang asked if someone is penalized for damage; with Mr. Rudy explaining that there is current Legislation on this now. DEP's current position is that unless a utility is not being proactive they can fine, but they will allow you to do a project in kind, like mitigation. We can fine contractors for hitting a line, but contractors may stop calling hits in if we fine.

Chair Keller asked how their planning relates to those DEP standards for nutrients; with Mr. Rudy explaining that we don't do surface to water discharging. All our affluent goes to the reclaim system or deep well injection per DEP requirements. We store our effluent and when it is pushed out they are permitted for one inch a week. A new computerized system will limit usage to one inch. This is a different type of nutrient then you get from fertilizer.

Chair Keller asked what in the planning process will ensure the utility plants will be high enough and strong enough for sea level rise and more violent storms.

Mr. Rudy explained everything is built up by the nature of the plant and as part of the process we are required to look at future sea level rise. We provide tours of the plant if anyone is interested.

Commissioner Truex explained that the BCC has charged the utility with septic to sewer and review of infrastructure for all road projects.

Mr. Rudy explained:

- Charlotte County doesn't currently have a water master plan.
- A Water Master Plan along with water projections will be prioritized.
- A security study is being finished as required by law.
- EPA is working on lead and copper laws. Who is responsible?
 - Utilities may be made responsible for managing the program, next year.
 - We will have to inspect every line, meter to house built before 1990.
 - In some areas of the country the utility is funding a program and other areas are owner funded with payment plans.
 - 20% of all schools and daycare facilities will have to be inspected every year.

- **Health impacts algae toxins**

Chair Keller provided a local article entitled, The Legislature must pass bills to eliminate harmful algae. The article is attached to the minutes. Chair Keller stated he attended a lecture by Miami University Professor Larry Bran in Punta Gorda that provided a message that the threat to our estuaries was more than a matter of economics and convenience but also a health issue. Their message being, we need more research on harmful algae blooms, we should be warning the public about the health hazards from harmful algae blooms and that they should be avoided; along with stemming the flow of the nutrients into the estuary.

Mr. McCormick stated that physicians should be asking about exposure on the beach and ponds routinely.

- Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.
 - Manasota Key Beach Renourishment Project
 - Stump Pass Project

Mr. Poff stated that Stump Pass is in monitoring mode and we are three years this June post terminal groin installation and the last nourishment project. They anticipate a four-year dredge cycle. Surveys will be done this Summer. We have fifteen-year permits allowing for the dredging. Stump Pass sand will go on the adjacent beaches of Palm Island and then up on the State Park Beach. Potential FEMA dollars may be available from the post FEMA Recovery Project to help with the 2021 project.

Shore bird monitoring has begun.

- **South Beach Fill Renourishment**

The South Beach Project includes the Gulf front Shoreline of Knight Island and Don Pedro; it was last renourished in 2011. This is being done as the last segment of the current project. We anticipate the South Beach fill to be sometime around the last week of April thru the last week of May. Natural Resources works with the monitors to move turtle nests as necessary. We are not allowed to move shorebird eggs.

Mr. Poff provided a PowerPoint of the beach renourishment. The PowerPoint is attached to the minutes. The starting point is just north of the County line. About 1/3 of the sand will move under water and fill the bottom; and the remaining beach will be about 65 ft. wide. The goal is to always have at least 50 ft. of beach to provide the storm damage reduction benefit plus some advanced nourishment.

Mr. Poff asked Secretary Scott to send the One Drive link to the BSAC. It was suggested the BSAC members take a tour of the beach renourishment; asking Secretary Scott to supply Damien Ochab's contact information.

Mr. Hill asked about the construction sites; with Mr. Poff explaining there is orange fencing and posts to restrict access. Mr. Hill asked how they see the sections referred to as progressing; with Mr. Poff stating there will be about 1000 ft. at one time and then they will move down the beach. Once the second hopper comes it will slow down a little bit, but the beach fill density will reduce as we get closer to the park. We have a gap in Charlotte and Sarasota. Chair Keller thanked Mr. Poff for all he has done.

- Matt Logan, Public Works
 - Engineering Projects Update Report
 - Manchester Waterway west end access proposal

Mr. Logan explained that Zach Patchell will be taking over the role of Coastal Projects Manager doing all the manmade canal maintenance dredging and Matt will still be on the Beach Projects. In the future either Matt or Zach will be in attendance. Zach will take over with the MSBU updates at some date in the future.

Mr. Logan proved an MSBU update:

- The Pirate Harbor dredging project has been completed.
- The Gulf Cove dredging project has been completed.
- Final revisions have been received for the Manchester Waterway dredge. Hopefully this information will be available by this Friday or next Tuesday.
- North West Port Charlotte – Coastal Engineering is waiting on Charlotte County to get a final template completed for bid specs.

Commissioner Truex stated he would like to be at pre-construction meeting for the beach work.

Mr. Logan explained that he and Zach are currently not involved with the Manchester Waterway west end.

Chair Keller stated it was his understanding the Manchester Waterway west end was on hold; asking to table this discussion until the BSAC has new information, removing it from the agenda.

- Parks and Natural Resources
 - Parks and Natural Resources Update

Ms. Derheimer stated that Shorebird Nesting Season begins March 15th. The mitigation and maintenance were completed for the shorebird nesting area on Palm Island. Pre-fencing has been done at Stump Pass Beach State Park. Winter bird surveys were done with breeding bird surveys to begin mid-March. We have not had any reports of nests as of today. Natural Resources is working on outreach with mailings going out to beach residents. Friendly reminders will be made regarding lighting. Chair Keller suggested using public radio for outreach. Ms. Scudera explained that they will meeting with the Friends of Stump Pass this weekend.

Commissioner Truex asked about the predatory animals and what staff needs from the BCC in order to move something forward to mitigate; with **Ms. Scudera** explain they are aware of the common predators and are working to get wildlife cameras to view activity at night. The trapper is limited as to where and how he can trap. Our largest predator is dogs. We educate the public, but it does take enforcement to set precedence. We worked with Law Enforcement at Stump Pass last year and will do the same on Stump Pass this year. We also work with the FWC and we will be speaking with them this Saturday about how we can increase their presence out there.

- Derelict Vessel Update Report

Ms. Scudera provided the Derelict Vessel Update stating that five (5) vessels have been removed. AV 296 was removed recently, three (3) are pending removal and we still have “at risk” which means they were ticketed. There are thirteen (13) open cases, cited by Law Enforcement.

Commissioner Truex asked if AV 296 had possibly been removed with someone applying for title? Do we have options if a vessel is salvageable and can be removed in this manner; can the County save money? **Ms. Scudera** stated she would look into it and have Roger DeBruler follow up.

Mr. McCormick asked about prior discussion related to marking a channel in Chadwick Cove; with Ms. Scudera stating Mr. Logan would have this information.

9. Correspondence and Communications
None offered.

10. Public Comments
None offered.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants
None offered.

12. Member Comments

Mr. McCormick stated that at the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee Meeting yesterday, the Chair of the Sunrise Waterway MSBU made a presentation about the channel along Bayfront Park stating the beach is eroding and it is an aquatic preserve. Commissioner Truex explained that background information is being researched and there will be a process and permitting at some point in the future.

Ms. Lang and Chair Keller thanked Secretary Scott for her service as she will be retiring.

Chair Keller stated that Dave Blewett, FWC would be presenting at next month's BSAC meeting focusing on what they have observed with Filamentous Algae over the last decade or so. Hopefully, we can get a brief presentation from stormwater related to what will be happening with West Port and our water quality concerns with what will be running into the estuary.

13. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, August 6, 2020** at 9:00 a.m. in the large conference room of Building Construction Services unless otherwise announced.

14. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Don McCormick, Vice Chair